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Rochester Hills, MI 48309 (US); **HUNT, Andrew, T.** [US/US]; 1495 Mountain Way, Atlanta, GA 30342-3801 (US); **QUILLIAN, Charles McKendrie, V.** [US/US]; 5224 Corinth Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30087 (US); **DALZELL, William J., Jr.** [US/US]; 1945 Turtle Creek Way, Lawrenceville, GA 30043 (US); **WITBROD, Frank, C.** [US/US]; 2850 Brookfield Circle, Cumming, GA 30040 (US); **LEE, Stein, s.** [US/US]; 199 14th Street, Suite #711, Atlanta, GA 30309 (US); **HARM, William** [US/US]; 3130 Granada Way, Gainesville, GA 30506 (US); **SMALLEY, Jeanne Yadlyne** [US/US]; 6925 Cumberland Circle, Riverdale, GA 30296 (US); **BATICH, Mark** [US/US]; 3271 Fawn Trail, Marietta, GA 30066 (US); **HOOS, William** [US/US]; 351 West 10th Street, Atlanta, GA 30318 (US).

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(74) Agent: **MURATORI, Alfred, H.**; MicroCoating Technologies Inc., 5315 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30341 (US).

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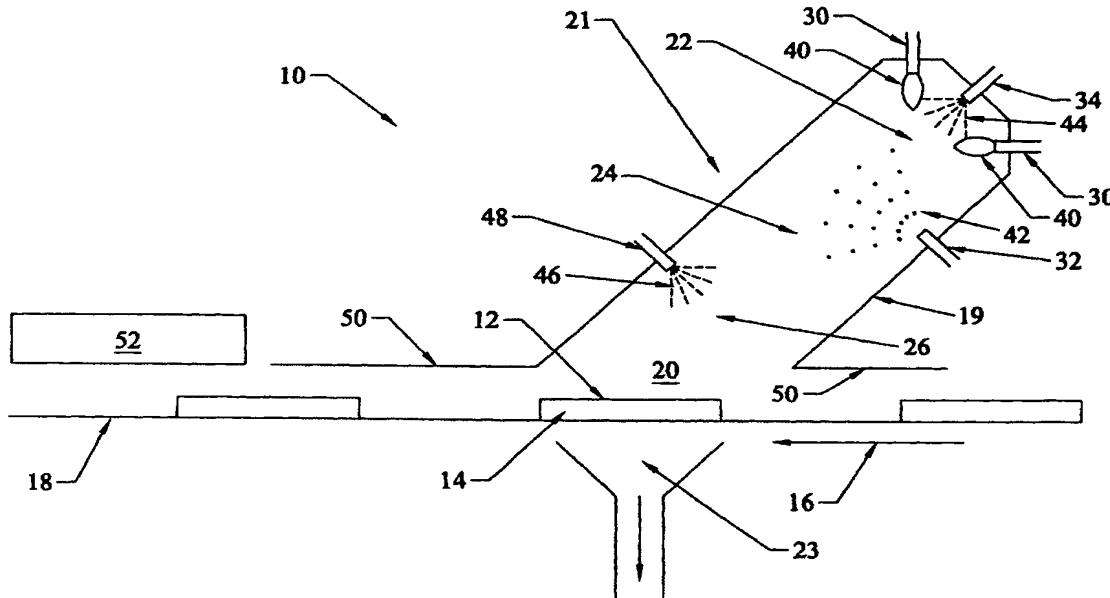
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(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **SMITH, Paul, L.** [US/US]; 11850 Stratford Wood Rd., Roswell, GA 30076 (US); **FAGUY, Peter** [—US]; 2983 Waterview Drive,

(54) Title: FUEL CELL MEMBRANES AND CATALYTIC LAYERS



(57) Abstract: To form an ionomer-based catalytic layer on a porous substrate, a heat source (40) is used to dry an ionomer-containing spray (46) so that it does not substantially liquid flow on the substrate (14). The ionomer spray (46) may contain a catalyst. A spray (46) of mixed material for forming the catalytic layer is entrained by a gas stream and is heated and directed to a substrate surface (12). For hydrogen/oxygen fuel cells, catalytic material is incorporated into the proton-conducting membrane (56) to convert diffusing oxygen and hydrogen to water to reduce potential loss at the electrodes and maintain hydration of the proton-conducting membrane (56).

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